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LOGNOTE -- Chief, Operations Group, 17 November 1983

1. [] Talked with [] about Austrian Bureau and Islamabad Unit. [] says that the new quarters in Islamabad are fine and that everything there is in good shape. He says the area around the bureau is very quiet and reception is good. Five new antennas were put up, which is about all the roof area would hold. The only problem remaining in Islamabad is the P&TT problem which [] is working on. This is not a new problem; it is a startup problem we had when the unit was established and which recurs from time to time, as it has with the move. The line from London to Karachi is clear. It is the Karachi-Islamabad link that repeatedly gives trouble. [] simply will have to keep worrying this with P&TT as [] had to do in the past. [] says he was pleased by our decision to retain technical responsibility for the Islamabad Unit at Austrian Bureau. He said he felt that [] could be a help to Islamabad for day-to-day operations but that periodic visits by an American engineer still were essential.

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As to Austrian Bureau, [] said he did not want to comment on anything that had been done in the past but that the bureau technically "was a mess." In fact, he added, there had been so much patch work over the years that he and Wich felt that it would be impossible to fix it up and that a complete overhaul was required. They are very pleased with the plans to relocate the technical section in the basement. They are satisfied that the weatherproofing has been done satisfactorily and [] says that the relocated equipment will provide enough heat to insure dryness in the area. They are looking toward mid-March to have the move of the technical unit into the basement completed. After that the former engineering area will be reorganized into working space for monitors. Then the antennas will be looked at, and after that the commo section.

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I asked about the VCVC circuits on the Vienna end. [] said he understood from [] that BBC had finally decided to obtain a 15 kilohertz "music quality" line. Apparently there are two stereo lines out of England which are underutilized and one of which could be made available. The charges have been negotiated down and now look like something in the range of \$3,000 a month although this figure may not represent the full information of tails and connections. The new line, if established, will run from Austria through Switzerland joining a British Telecom connection at the French-Swiss border, then across France and probably by microwave over the Channel. The circuit will provide a great deal of capacity. BBC will retain the original VCVC line. [] said that he believed [] had told Kline quite recently that [] had decided to go into London to get the money. We'll hope for the best.

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[] had very high regard for [] BBC's number two
engineer at Caversham, as have all of us who have worked with him.
[] does not know [] but he feels, again as we all do,
that anything will be an improvement over his predecessor.

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He said the BBC was still having problems with the circuits for
the satellite dish they have established in Crowsley Park. He
said BBC's original plan had been to connect the antenna to
Caversham with land lines. He had pointed out how backward this
was and urged them to substitute a microwave link. They are trying
to do this now but are having some problems with the South
Oxfordshire Planning Commission. I expect this will be worked
out in due course, as they say.

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(cc: D/FBIS, C/ED, C/MOD, C/DRD)